

Message Text

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17

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 EB-07 L-02 OES-03

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R 231005Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2493

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOGADISCIO 1885

ROME FOR FODAG (SKILES)

DEPT ALSO PASS AID/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID SOCI SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI DROUGHT SITUATION

1. UNDP AFRICAN REGIONAL CHIEF STEDMAN, WHO HAS WEALTH OF UN EXPERIENCE (29 YEARS) AND IS FAMILIAR WITH DROUGHTRELIEF OPERATIONS IN SAHEL AND ELSEWHERE, BRIEFED ME ON HIS CONCLUSIONS ABOUT SOMALI SITUATION ON BASIS HIS DEC. 17-22 VISIT TO SOMALIA, WHICH INCLUDED TWO EXTENSIVE FIELD TRIPS. WHILE STEDMAN'S CONCLUSIONS DO NOT RPT NOT DIFFER FROM OUR OWN WHICH HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED, THEY CONSTITUTE USEFUL CORROBORATION OF OUR OWN IMPRESSIONS FROM AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER. STEDMAN WILL BE REPORTING HIMSELF TO UNDP AND HIS COMMENTS TO ME SHOULD BE TREATED AS INFORMAL AND PRELIMINARY.

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2. STEDMAN FEELS DROUGHT SITUATION IS SERIOUS AND

GETTING WORSE. HE FEELS GSDR IS MAKING DETERMINED EFFORT TO COPE WITH SITUATION AND HAS FACED UP TO PROBLEM CONSIDERABLY EARLIER THAN IN CASE OF SAHEL AND ETHIOPIA. HE STATES THAT THE FOUR DROUGHT REFUGEE CAMPS HE VISITED WERE SUPERIOR IN ORGANIZATION AND CLEANLINESS TO ANY HE HAD SEEN ELSEWHERE.

3. SOMALIS TOLD STEDMAN THEY ESTIMATED THEY WOULD HAVE 200 THOUSAND PEOPLE IN CAMPS BY APRIL 1. STEDMAN NOTES IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE AN ESTIMATE OF THIS KIND BUT HE THINKS THIS FIGURE MAY BE SOMEWHAT TOO LOW. HE FEELS THAT GSDR HAS NOT RPT NOT FACED UP TO EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME OVER WHICH CAMPS WILL HAVE TO BE MAINTAINED. THIS, HE FEELS, WILL MAKE PROBLEM EVEN MORE SERIOUS THAN GSDR EXPECTS.

4. STEDMAN IS RECOMMENDING DOUBLING OF WFP EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA. HE INTENDS TO FILL POSITION OF RESIDENT FAO REPRESENTATIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE HOPES TO GET SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR UNDP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PRESENTLY \$15 MILLION PER YEAR). HE FEELS UNDP COULD USEFULLY DO MORE WORK IN RANGE MANAGEMENT. HE ALSO HOPES TO INCREASE ITS ACTIVITIES IN FIELD OFFISHING AND WELL DRILLING.
KIRK

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Message Attributes

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